



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR RENEE CIPRIANO, ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FROM: KURT NEIBERGALL, MANAGER, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMO REQUESTED BY CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT'S OFFICE

DATE: 12/20/02

CC: INTERNAL ROUTING LIST FOR THE DOWNERS GROVE AND LISLE SITES

Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation/Ellsworth Industrial Park

The application for grant money to put in water mains in North Belmont Park (the area immediately south of the Ellsworth Industrial Park) has been approved by Illinois EPA and is at the Governor's Office for sign off. We expect the full grant to be awarded the first week of 2003.

Settlement Offer from the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs): U.S. EPA received the good faith offer document from the PRP group on December 17. After reviewing the offer and discussing it with both Illinois EPA's Division of Legal Counsel and the Illinois Attorney General's Office, U.S. EPA drafted a response letter yesterday that is expected to go out today. It is our understanding that the PRPs have another 30 days to clarify certain aspects of the proposal and refine it into an acceptable settlement. So, no settlement has been reached at this point that can be shared with the public. As soon as something can be shared, however, U.S. EPA plans to do a press release in conjunction with Illinois EPA.

Lisle - Lockformer Site

The on-site investigation of soil and water contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) on Lockformer properties is continuing, with additional investigation west and southwest of the plant to find the full extent of contamination in the layers of soil above the bedrock.

The system to remove the TCE from the soil on-site is expected to be installed and ready to operate by March 2003.

All the homes in "Area A" (the neighborhood immediately to the south) have been connected to the Village of Lisle public water mains. In addition, Illinois EPA has provided a grant to pay 70% of the cost of providing water mains to serve the Woodridge Estates Subdivision (Area B). The Village of Lisle is preparing an engineering study to complete that water main, and is planning to apply to the DuPage Water Commission for low-interest loan funds to pay for the balance of the project, including connecting the homes to the water line and abandoning the wells.

Woodridge's application for IEPA grant money

The Village of Woodridge applied for grant money to install water mains in certain areas of Suburban Estates. Results from a November Illinois EPA survey of homes in Suburban Estates (Area C): 51 homes (70%) responded, of the 73 homes not already served by existing Woodridge water mains. Only 12 (24%) said they wanted the grant to be approved and the water mains built. 39 residents (76%) said they were opposed to the project if it meant annexation to Woodridge.

To summarize the results of today's conference call with Senator Dillard and Representatives Meyer and Bellock about the survey results and grant award issues – the Office of Community Relations will participate in the meeting with DuPage County, Woodridge and the DuPage Water Commission early in January that you committed to holding prior to making a decision on the grant award.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Kurt Neibergall
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